Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A diffusion layer for a fuel cell comprising:

a base layer,

said base layer including: (a) a carbonized yarn of a woven fabric, and (b) a carbonized binder impregnated into the yarn thereby connecting filaments of the yarn, ~~and (c) a water-repellent layer with a multi-layer structure including an inner layer and an outer layer different in adhesiveness and strength to each other~~

both said woven fabric and said binder being carbonized after said binder has been impregnated into said woven fabric.

11 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A diffusion layer for a fuel cell comprising:

a base layer,

said base layer including: (a) a non-woven carbon paper made from carbon fibers, and (b) a synthetic carbonized resin binder impregnated into the carbon paper with a nonuniform distribution in an impregnation amount in ~~an in-plane direction~~ a direction of a plane of the carbon paper ~~and carbonized~~, wherein a first portion of said base layer including a major amount of the binder is impregnated constructing ~~is~~ a rigid portion of said base layer ~~where a relatively large amount of the binder~~, and a second portion of said base layer including a minor amount of the binder is impregnated constructing ~~is~~ a deformable portion of said base layer ~~where a relatively small amount of the binder~~.

20 -24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) A diffusion layer for a fuel cell comprising:

a base layer having opposite surfaces; and

a water-repellent layer made from a mixture of carbon and synthetic resin formed on one surface of said base layer, said water-repellent layer being constructed of a multi-layer structure including an inner layer and an outer layer different in adhesiveness and strength to each other, said inner layer having a strength greater than a strength of said outer layer, said outer layer having an adhesiveness stronger than an adhesiveness of said inner layer.

26 - 28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) A diffusion layer for a fuel cell comprising:

a water-repellent layer including two kinds of binders, wherein said two kinds of binders include a first binder made from a synthetic resin having an adhesiveness and a second binder made from material having a higher rigidness than said synthetic resin of said first binder.

30 - 33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) ~~The diffusion layer according to claim 4, said filaments being formed by applying a shear force to a mixture of carbon and synthetic resin before coating of said mixture onto said base layer~~

A diffusion layer for a fuel cell, comprising:

a base layer; and

a water-repellent layer coated on said base layer, said water-repellent layer being made from a mixture of carbon and synthetic resin and solidified, said synthetic resin being deformed into filaments by applying a shear force to said mixture before coating of said mixture onto said base layer, thereby increasing an adhesiveness of the water-repellent layer.

35 - 36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently amended) ~~The diffusion layer according to claim 4, said filament being formed by applying a shear force to said water-repellent layer after solidifying said water-repellent layer~~

A diffusion layer for a fuel cell, comprising:

a base layer; and

a water-repellent layer coated on said base layer, said water-repellent layer being made from a mixture of carbon and synthetic resin and solidified, said synthetic resin being deformed into filaments by applying a shear force to said water-repellent layer after solidifying said water-repellent layer, thereby increasing an adhesiveness of the water-repellent layer.

38 - 39. (Canceled)